

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL GENEALOGY COLLECTION

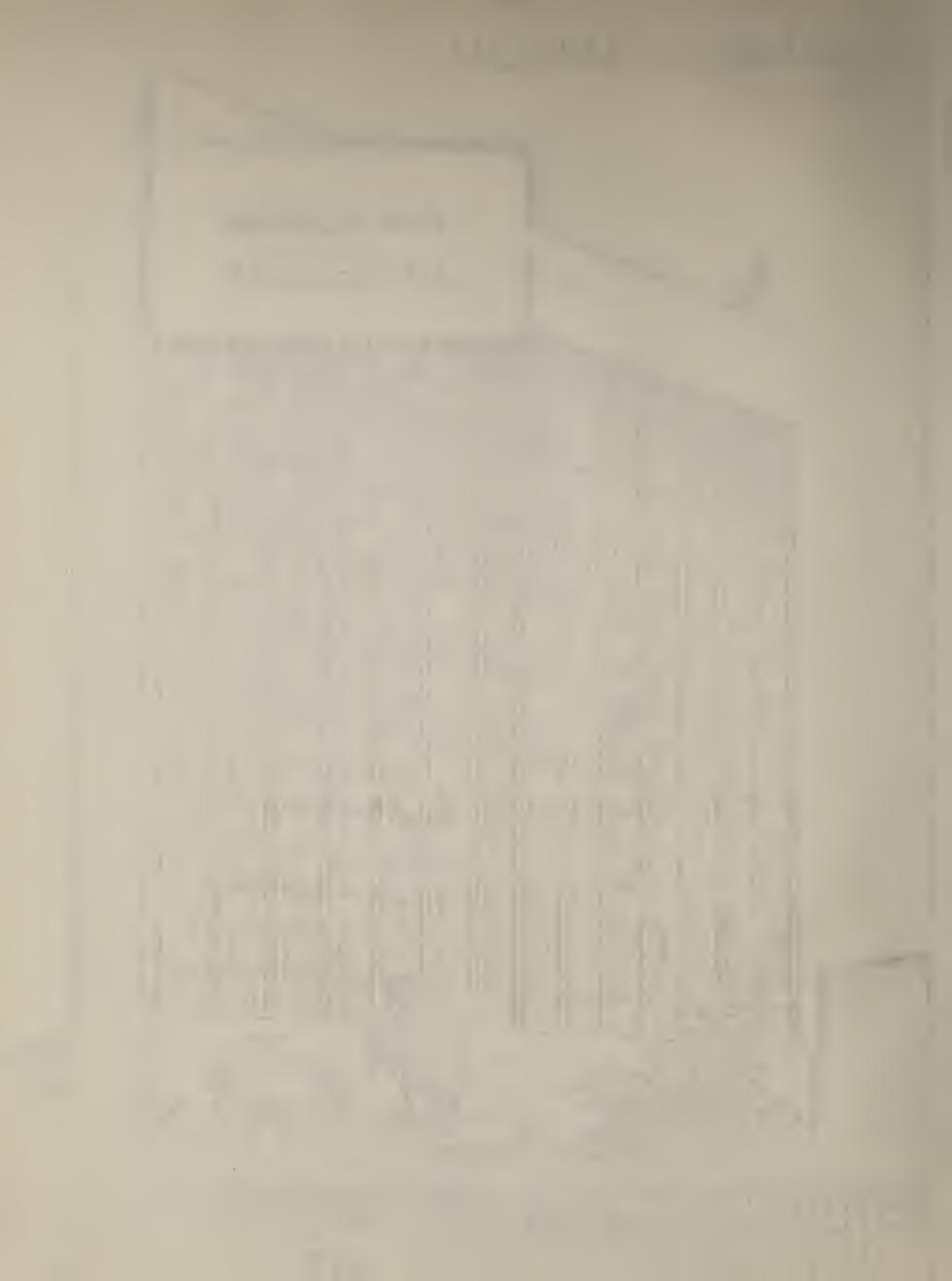
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840 1901 30 cractibats and bouquets OCT DBER 22, 1956 HOMER R. MITCHELL 1871-1956



1753370

THE COVER

Its mass of stone and steel and glass Reaches heavenward in the morning sun:

A proper Monument to the Man.

The flag at half staff is but one visible sign Of the sadness within at his passing. 

A company lost its beloved leader . . .

A city lost a devoted servant . . .

An industry lost a bold pioneer . . .

Yes, even a country lost a consecrated citizen when early Tuesday morning, August 7, 1956, Homer R. Mitchell, Chairman of the Boards of the companies, passed away unexpectedly at his home in Dallas.

Young in mind though well advanced in years, "Mr. Homer", at 85, was still scaling heights of human achievement which would have overcome a lesser man.

In his memory these pages are respectfully dedicated.



THE MAN'S

Early Life



HRM at age 20

A Missouri Indian Summer — pumpkins piled among the fodder teepees and the sheep cropping the late grass, the woods scarlet and gold and purple and brown, the valleys filled with white mist in the mornings and steeped with blue haze at sunset — enveloped the little community of Lee's Summit, Missouri on October 22, 1871, when Colonel David T. Mitchell and wife welcomed the birth of their son Homer.

Throughout the nation there were signs of progress and change. The countryside was fast being spanned by ribbons of steel as railroad transportation took over as the more modern mode of travel. Only two years before, on May 10, 1869, the first transcontinental railroad had been created when the Central Pacific and Union Pacific joined at Og-

den, Utah. The South was rebuilding after the destruction and tragic effects of the Civil War.

Growth and expansion were everywhere to be found. In a small community in the Lone Star State, citizens replaced their town charter with a city charter, began construction of a "fine two-story brick" courthouse, and the city of Dallas was on its way to prominence in the Southwest.

Back in the "show me" state of Missouri, Homer Rawlins Mitchell survived the troubles of the world and grew to healthy childhood. In 1879, his family went to Kokomo, Colorado, a mining camp near Leadville, where they lived for five years while his father was postmaster of the town.

When Homer was 14, the family

moved to Wichita, Kansas, and Homer commuted to and from Lewis Academy on his father's milk wagon, which deposited him at the school door at 4:30 a.m. Three years later, in 1888, the family moved again, trading their Wichita property for a 435-acre farm near Woodlandville, Boone County, Missouri.

It was about this time that young Homer turned college-age and entered the state university at Columbia as a sub-freshman. Graduating from the University of Missouri law school in 1895 when the depression which plagued Grover Cleveland's second term as president was in full swing, Homer Mitchell found that lawyers were "a dime a dozen." But determined to stick with his chosen profession, he jumped at the chance to

A portion of original letter to young Homer from his father, about 1895, and a reproduction of the letter in its entirety.

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My dear Son:

It is now between 1 & 2 o'clock. Your coming in at 12 o'clock woke me up and the thought of this fact coupled with the thought that you are about to leave our home has driven sleep from me and your manima.

Never in your boyhood, my dear son, can you know with what anxious solicitude your fond and loving parents think and pray over this trying ordeal. For long years we have been laboring and sacrificing to equip you for your life's duties. You are about to launch forth into a world of conflict. Triumph and defeat, success and failure await your coming. You are about to commence the architectural work of your own future; you commence to shape your destiny. Remember that in the great current of life you must be either driftwood or a boat, that driftwood always goes down; that a boat may go up, but that if its forces are turned loose in the wrong direction they only hasten the trip downward. Good intentions with weak yielding non-resisting natures are the labels that chronicle the history of more wrecks on life's sea coasts than all else of good or bad fortune.

My dear son, remember that your character and capacity to work—to do something—constitute your capital stock and that

your reputation is your credentials, that your conduct, your behavior, are checks drawn on that capital, and that you must honor these checks yourself; that your employer will judge largely of the genuineness of these checks by your habits. Honesty, native ability, acquired intelligence, pluck and a determination to make yourself useful and valuable to your employer will, in the end, bring success. But all these qualities will be quickly and keenly judged of and passed upon by shrewd observing men of experience, and your habits and bearing will be closely scanned.

Now, I want you to promise me that you will, at once, associate yourself with the YMCA, not for the purpose of playing a false part and appearing to be what you are not, but because you will need all the moral support you can get, and because they will be helpful to you and because I want you to be, in turn, helpful to them. Above everything else be despotic over yourself; habits grow. Make yourself do or not do as your judgment and conscience may dictate, and thus be able to look the world full in the face with no apologies for wrong doinz:and never forget that you-your will or your habits, one or the other-will be the despot of your being and fix your destiny.

Your Papa



Young Homer (middle row, center) with Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity brothers at University of Missouri, about 1894.

take desk space in a Kansas City law firm. It was this decision of his to leave home and begin his career that prompted Col. Mitchell to write the letter of fatherly advice to his son. And although the younger Mitchell's later life proved that he took to heart his father's advice, something deeper than written words was instilled in the character of the boy . . . something inherited from father by son. From Col. Mitchell's obituary; published in a Columbia, Missouri newspaper following his death on August 9, 1914, the following excerpt is taken.

"Col. Mitchell's death ended a distinguished career as a citizen and a life full of satisfaction to himself, of honor to the community and of usefulness to his family and friends. Col. Mitchell was not only a man of the highest, most old-fashioned honor but he possessed a vigorous intellect and a trained mind . . . He retained his interest in human affairs until

HRM with his father and mother on his last visit to his Missouri home, 1912.



the end. . . . Col. Mitchell was never afraid to accept new ideas when he was convinced of their truth. And best and last of all, no man who was so deeply versed in the very things concerning which even the so-called best educated have only a smattering of knowledge, was more patient, more genuinely tolerant and so absolutely free from intellectual pride and arrogance."

So nearly does that tribute, written to the elder Mitchell forty-two years almost to the day before his son Homer's death, describe the younger Mitchell also that with a mere name change the quotation could have been reprinted in honor of Mr. Homer.

Endowed with his father's characteristics and remembering papa's good advice, Homer Mitchell started out on his own along life's road.

After eight months with the Kansas City law firm, young Mitchell had earned a total of \$125. His next attempt to set up a law practice was in Fayette, Missouri. The depression continued, and in 1896 he left his home state and moved to Houston, a move that ultimately resulted in the shaping of his life's destiny.

Mr. Mitchell had accepted a job as attorney for R. G. Dun and Company in Houston, and while he waited for legal clients to materialize, he busied himself serving policyholders who came to the Travelers office next door when the company man was out.

With the arrival of the Spanish American War boom in 1899, the Travelers man decided to move away and the company asked Mr. Mitchell to continue his "missionary" work in his spare time for a salary. In 1903, the Travelers, pleased with his



This portrait of HRM was taken around 1902.

work, offered him the state agency at a salary of \$4,200 a year. In those days that was real money. By now he had a wife and baby boy. His law practice brought nothing like that income. Still, it was the profession for which he had prepared and he was not one to give up easily. One friend advised him, though, to "take the job, insurance is the only business in the world where the customers insist on your making money."

Hence the man Homer R. Mitchell entered the profession to which he was to devote the rest of his days.

Moving to Dallas July 1, 1903, he threw the energy of his 32 years into the Travelers job. In the first year his agency wrote \$505,000—a record in those times. Then came the Armstrong Investigation of 1904-05 which resulted in Texas' Robertson Law of 1907. Some twenty odd companies, including the Travelers, withdrew from the state, and Mr. Mitchell went with it. He was transferred to St. Louis as Southwestern manager, but soon discovered that his real asset was his adopted state of Texas rather than his native state of Missouri. In 1908 he returned to Houston as general agent for Maryland Casualty Company and in 1910 he moved back to Dallas to become general manager for the Western Casualty and Guaranty Company.

Looming on the horizon three years later was a chance and an opportunity for Homer R. Mitchell to make a step that would put him well on the way of that road to success. He visualized these possibilities and, ending the era of a satisfying early life, he began an even more fruitful span of years . . an era of achievement that was not to end for 42 years.

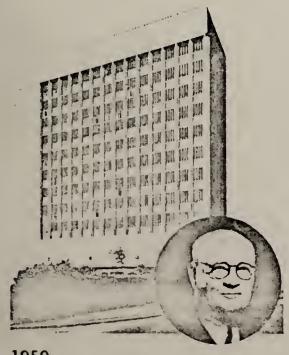


THE MAN and

1914



1920



1950

healthy childhood, productive youth and successful maturity, reality of its beginning is sometimes obscured by dreams of its future. But when you find a man who experienced its beginning and guided it through each succeeding stage, but will not let thoughts of the past hinder his zealous outlook toward the future, you have found an extraordinary situation.

When a company experiences

That situation existed in the man Homer R. Mitchell and in the companies Texas Employers' Insurance Association, Employers Casualty Company and Employers National Insurance Company.

And because the story of the life of the man is so interwoven with the story of the life of the companies, both are necessary to do justice to either.

Although the person of Mr. Mitchell is no longer present among us, the memory of him will endure as long as the companies exist . . . as long as the building which houses the companies stands . . . as long as mankind can recognize and appreciate the characteristics of foresight, ability, leadership, courage and faith which he put into practice in the organization of these companies.

HRM and TEIA

No sooner was Texas Employers' Insurance Association created by the state legislature in 1913 than a post in the association opened for Mr. Mitchell. The call to serve came from

a group of business leaders — not an insurance man among them - who had been appointed directors for the organization and charged with the responsibility of implementing the new law. These men needed someone who could draw up rules, regulations and a schedule of rates. In other words, someone who could translate the legislature's expressed idea and purpose into actuality. Mr. Mitchell's ten years in the insurance field qualified him for the job and he became general manager of the Association, which was at that time simply the expression of an idea and a desire for providing employers of labor in Texas with workmen's compensation insurance at net cost.

The law provided that the Governor should appoint the first board of directors and that these men should serve until their successors were elected by the policyholders. The law also provided that the Association should not begin business until it had fifty subscribers with a minimum of 2,000 employees. The Association received its license to do business in May, 1914. On May 15, it issued its first policies. But behind these two events lay much unusual and historymaking organizational effort.

The board met twice at Austin. During a luncheon break in the second meeting, John S. Radford of Houston, one of the members, encountered Ben Bailey of Austin in the hotel lobby and asked if he could recommend an actuary the board could employ to work up some rates.



HIS COMPANIES

Bailey said he knew just the man, and that this man probably could be persuaded to take the job.

After Radford reported back to the board, Paul Waples was delegated to approach Mr. Mitchell, then vice president of the Fort Worth Life Insurance Company, with the offer of a job, the duties of which would be to establish a set of classifications and rates on which the association could solicit business.

He accepted and the history of the Texas Employers' Insurance Association from that day to the day of his death was largely the story of Mr. Mitchell.

The first board was faced with the almost insurmountable task of persuading fifty employers with 2,000 employees to entrust their insurance to an unknown corporation having no assets and nothing but a purpose set forth in the law. It had no information as to rates, classifications, rules or regulations to guide it in the conduct of its business. In short, it had no past experience, the very heart and sinews of insurance underwriting.

Furthermore, the board had little or no funds — its original and only appropriation of \$5,000 by the legislature was more than exhausted by the time the association was ready to do business. So Mr. Mitchell had to take the job largely on faith that something worthwhile would develop from it. His faith paid off in a bountiful measure.

There were trials and tribulations

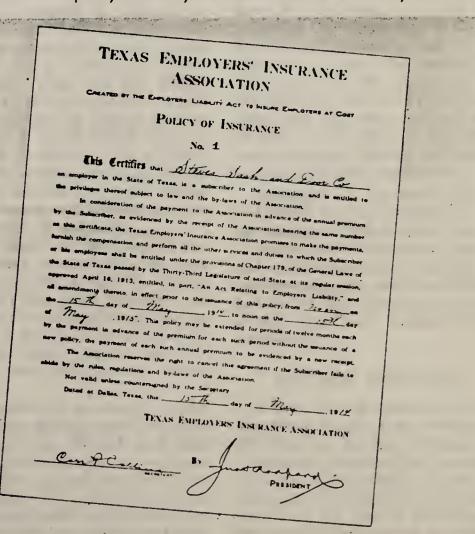
in the early days of the Association, naturally, but finally the rates were established and the applications of fifty-seven employers obtained. However, with the fifty-seven companies signed up, a new problem was presented. In order to obtain a license, the Association had to show it had no indebtedness. But by then the \$5,000 had gone and the treasury showed a deficit of some \$1,800.

Then occurred a lucky break for Dallas.

Houston members of the board

assured their colleagues that, if head-quarters were established in Houston, they would be glad to raise the necessary funds to clear the indebtedness. But W. B. Head, who later served as president of the Association for many years, and W. S. Mosher of Dallas then arose to assure the group that they and their townsmen would raise the money so the original intent to locate in Dallas could be carried out. This was done, \$1,955 was subscribed and the association began

The first policy issued by TEIA remains in effect today.



HIS COMPANIES





The President's office in 1928. Mr. Mitchell and L. W. Groves, former executive vice president.



Ninth Annual Sales and Claims Conference of TEIA-ECC, June, 1928. Mr. Mitchell had been named president of the companies the year before.

operations with a balance of \$155 in its treasury — its sole assets.

The first policy was written for Steves Sash and Door Company in San Antonio, and proud is the Association of the fact that this policy still remains in effect as No. 1. But the real break, and probably the single triumph that first insured the success of the undertaking, came when the Texas Power & Light Company signed up as one of the original fiftyseven and one of the first big companies. This required a four-hour visit and a big selling job on the part of Mr. Mitchell and Col. J. F. Strickland, TP&L president, in the New York office of the holding company which controlled the Texas utility firm. But Mr. Mitchell came away with the business. The second major accomplishment was the signing of The Texas Company. After that Texas Employers' was safely on the way.

Mr. Mitchell had given the board a policy form simple in its language and brevity — and with no fine print. Being a lawyer by training, he thought this was all that was needed; that the law itself was the policy. Employers could understand every word of the policy and this appealed to them.

As the required policies were

written, the policyholders met to elect their own board of directors and Mr. Mitchell was named general manager.

There were very few mutual casualty companies in existence at that time, and only one other that had been created by a state legislature in similar fashion to Texas Employers'. That was the Massachusetts Employee Association, which later abandoned its charter and reorganized as the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company. Thus Texas Employers' remains the only mutual company created by special act of the legislature and writing one line of insurance in one state.

The "chief," as Mr. Mitchell was often called in those days, was employed at \$5,000 a year. At the end of TEIA's first year, however, in order for the company's surplus to be as large as possible, Mr. Mitchell waived his salary and was not paid for the first fourteen or fifteen months.

The problem of acquiring a surplus was indeed a difficult one in the early years. And Mr. Mitchell used good psychological strategy to overcome it. The law required that each year's accumulation of funds be distributed to the policyholders and a fresh start be made each year. They, and they

alone, could waive it. So Mr. Mitchell would hold meetings of policyholders at central points — Dallas, Houston, Ft. Worth and San Antonio — and there appeal to the policyholders to leave their dividends on deposit. But beforehand he would prime one influential policyholder to get up and vigorously oppose the proposition. This would be the signal for Mr. Mitchell to let loose with all his arguments and logic and point out that his plan was the only one that would assure strength, stability and success to the Association's operations.

Invariably his arguments carried, and in this way the Association built up a surplus which, in time, brought it considerable independent income and a substantial reserve through wise investment. Again, the Mitchell mind had pulled the organization out of a tight spot and strengthened it considerably.

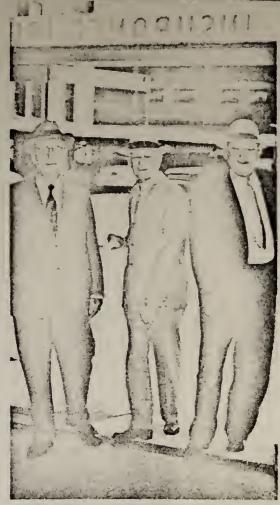
ECC IDEA CONCEIVED

It soon became apparent that the Association faced a great handicap in its efforts to broaden compensation coverage in the state. Big firms were reluctant to give their compensation insurance to a company that could write but one line of insurance in one state. Many would have been





Mr. Mitchell received the plaque (in insert above) at a dinner in honor of his 25th anniversary with TEIA, 1939.



Mr. Mitchell, L. W. Groves and A. F. Allen enter the newly-constructed HO Building in May, 1950.

glad to place their insurance with Texas Employers' if it had been in a position to handle their other lines, and in some cases, their operations in surrounding states.

So the idea of a companion company came into being about 1917. There being no law providing for the organization of a mutual casualty company in Texas, there was no way to create a mutual company as a companion to the association. But Mr. Mitchell came across an obscure law which would permit the organization of a stock company to be operated along the same lines and principles as the Association — the direct solicitation of insurance by salaried representatives and the return to the policyholders of the underwriting earnings derived from its more economical plan of operating.

Because of the war, Employers Casualty Company's advent was postponed until July 2, 1920. Letters were sent to Association policyholders soliciting stock subscriptions. The response was prompt and great and the corporation started with \$150,000 in capital stock and \$37,500 in surplus. All this money was raised without promotional cost, total expenses being about \$100 for stationery and

postage, an achievement probably unique in the whole insurance field.

Few stock casualty companies share their earnings with policyholders and Employers Casualty's participation was based on an old, obscure antidiscrimination law in the Texas Statutes. Also discovered was a law which would permit stock casualty companies to underwrite multiple line insurance, and Employers Casualty was the first casualty company to write fire coverage under the provisions of that law.

Mr. Mitchell served as general manager and secretary of the association for some years, later became vice president and in 1927 was made president of both companies. He was elected chairman of the boards in 1938.

In 1950 the Employers Indemnity Company was organized and served as a reinsurance company until 1954, when it was reorganized as the Employers National Insurance Company. The National was designed as a multiple line writer similar to the Casualty Company.

From the first, Mr. Mitchell set out to build an organization of people and not of cold statistics. He never

deviated from that policy. He once was described as a genius in picking men. He got the ideas and then found ways of putting them into action by selecting the right men to carry them out.

For years he knew personally every one who worked in the organization, not only by name, but by close associations. He had selected most of them, and he constantly watched over them, encouraged and advised them. He never hired a man without requiring that the newcomer join up at a lesser salary than he had been getting. Then he invariably boosted him to an even higher figure within three or four months.

"I wanted them to be thoroughly sold on us, and the opportunities ahead for them, and to be willing to make a sacrifice," Mr. Mitchell recalled at one time.

Texas Employers' Insurance Association, Employers Casualty Company and Employers National Insurance Company are in many respects the personal creations of Homer Rawlins Mitchell, and with their future growth and development will forever be the memory of the man who guided them so well in the beginning 42 years.



THE MAN and HIS COMMUNITY



... A CHEST WORKER



Scenes at three of the many welfare agencies which receive help from Community Chest funds.





A builder, yes . . . of companies and of men . . . but a supporter too was Mr. Mitchell . . . of the many civic organizations within our city.

An avid Community Chest worker, Mr. Mitchell served in various capacities from 1932 until the time of his death, including four years as president from 1935 through 1938. He was a member of the Chest's campaign advisory committee for 1956.

But over and above his official contributions to the Chest, Mr. Mitchell was a human community chest, living out the practices of the organization in his everyday life. Not blinded by his own success, he was able to vividly see the needs of the less fortunate of our city; and seeing those needs, he directed his energies

toward doing something about them.

Because the city of Dallas has had among its citizenship such men as Homer R. Mitchell who were willing to assist in every worthy civic endeavor, it has been able to achieve goals that otherwise would have been impossible. And because Homer R. Mitchell so strongly possessed the "love thy neighbor" philosophy of life, he made a mark which will long endure among the citizens of this community.

The Community Chest campaign for funds in our companies was a success again this year; a success that perhaps carried a little deeper meaning than it had in the past because of the absence of one to which it always meant so much.

THE MAN GOLD THE



Many places and at many different times has it been said of Homer R. Mitchell that, although advanced in years, he never grew old in mind and spirit. A concrete example of that statement is the interest, loyalty and enthusiasm he had for the Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. Mitchell realized that America's future lies in its youth, and felt a deep obligation to do his part in preserving the future through the training of young men in our community.

No better way could be have found to fulfill that obligation than in the active program of the Boy Scouts.

The success of the movement for the past 46 years has been due in large measure to the high caliber of leadership of its units. In a membership of more than a million adult Scout leaders, a relatively small group of less than 3,000 trained professional executives serve in key positions across the country. The others are



... A SCOUT LEADER

volunteer Scouts, serving without monetary reward in a host of responsible positions, serving because they are devoted to the program of character development, citizenship training and physical fitness for boys and young men.

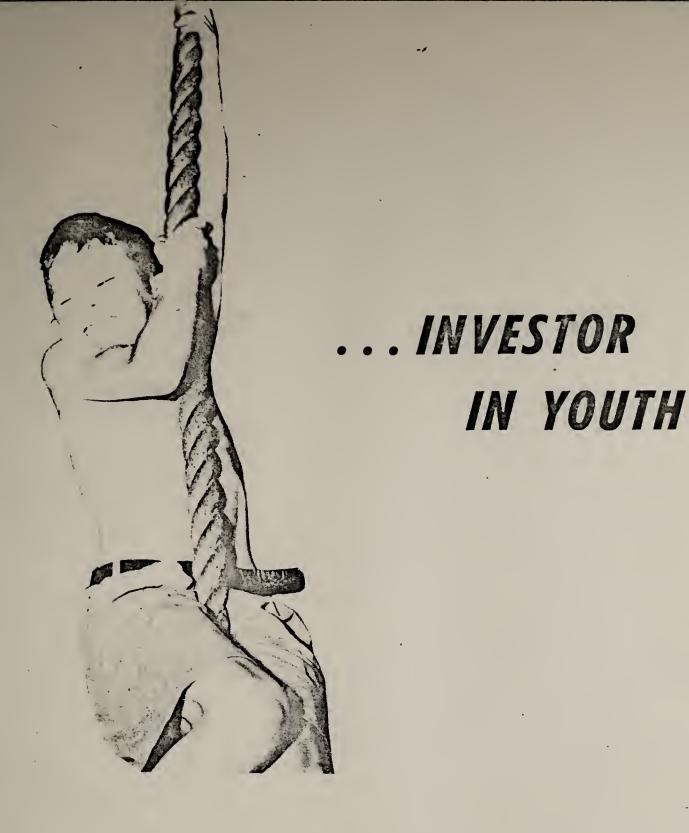
Such a position Mr. Mitchell held ... serving continuously as a member of the Regional Executive Committee from 1940 until the time of his death, as Regional Chairman from 1940 to 1947, and as chairman and member of numerous regional committees. He faithfully attended meetings and gave generously of his time in the interest of the local Scouting program. In 1944, the Boy Scouts of America Region Nine, which consists of Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico, presented Mr. Mitchell with the Silver Antelope Award for outstanding service, one of the first such awards given in this area.

With more than three million youths banded together under the slogan "Onward for God and My Country," and with leadership characterized by a man who was devoted both to the youth and to his country, the Boy Scouts of America, strong and stedfast, stand as still another example of the life of Homer R. Mitchell.



Mr. Mitchell receives Lorillard Spencer Award which was presented to Region Nine for highest percentage of gain in membership for 1941.





Homer R. Mitchell was introduced to the Young Men's Christian Association early in his adult life and there followed a friendship between the man and the Y that was disrupted only by the passing of the man.

And to the Y which gave him help and moral support so necessary in early life, Homer R. Mitchell reciprocated in later years by lending his assistance to its many worthy endeavors.

He actively contributed to the Y by serving as a member of its Board of Directors from 1935 to 1939, and as head of the industrial division in its successful building campaign of 1928-29 to raise money to build the present downtown YMCA, the Oak Cliff Y and the Moorland Branch.

These were a few of his tangible contributions. Others — the intangible contributions — were not limited to certain periods of years. Almost from the beginning of his association with the Y, Mr. Mitchell gave tirelessly of his support to its program of preserving Christian ideals in the young men of today.

In recognition of his long and successful service in the lay-leader-ship of the YMCA, Mr. Mitchell in 1945 was recommended as a life member of the Dallas Y and was awarded a silver membership card.

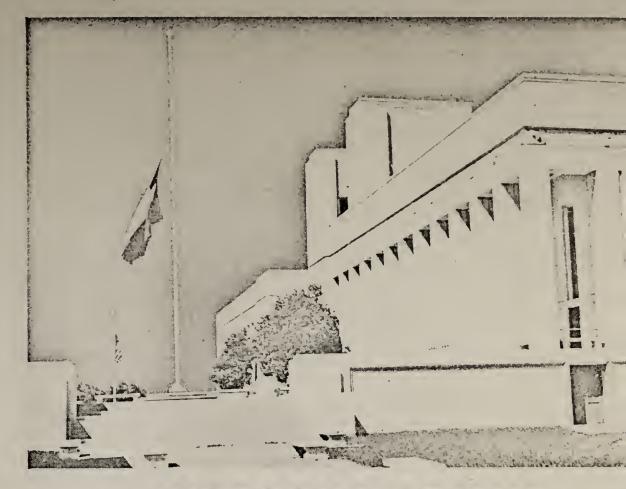
In his youth Mr. Mitchell availed himself of the opportunities offered by the Y, and in his later years made it possible through active support that those opportunities continued for the youth to come.

Mr. Mitchell headed committee which raised funds for construction of the downtown YMCA building.





Flags in front of Fair Park's Hall of State, home of the Dallas Historical Society, were draped at half staff for days in mourning at the passing of Mr. Mitchell.



... HISTORY'S FRIEND

In perpetuating the memory of those who build, we perpetuate the impulse to build, and conserve knowledge of how to build.

Although he did not count himself a historian, Mr. Mitchell was indeed a friend of history, fully aware of its importance for the present and its values for the future. His close association with the Dallas Historical Society, which extended through nearly a quarter of a century, was evidence of his keen interest in preserving the history of Dallas and this region.

When G. B. Dealey became president of the Society in 1934, one of his first acts was the creation of a board of fellows, composed of outstanding civic leaders whose interest in history enabled them to give valuable assistance to an institution embarking upon an expanded program. Mr. Mitchell was named to the board and continued a fellow until his death. Later lie was elected a trustee, and for many years was chairman of the central finance committee. In 1953, Mr. Mitchell succeeded to the presidency of the Society, a position he held at the time of his death.

These factual statements of Mr. Mitchell's official stations with this institution indicate his continuing



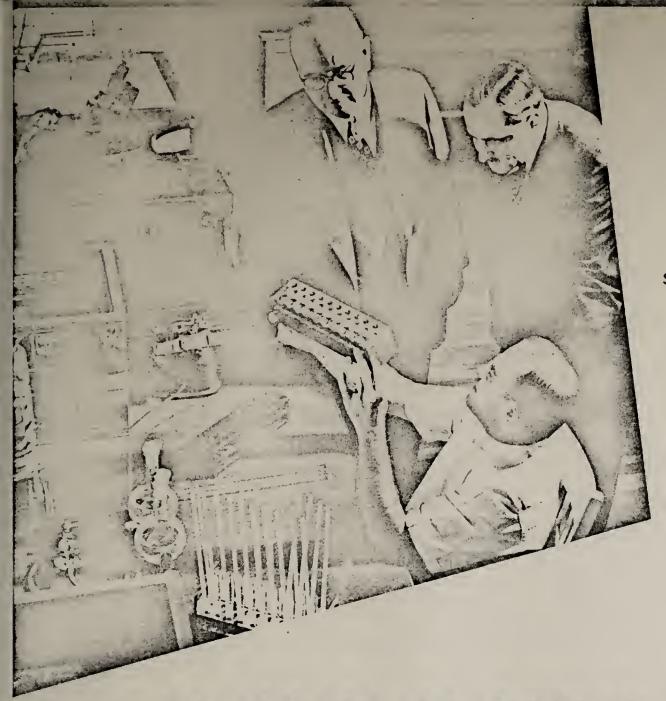
Mr. Mitchell, Dallas Historical Society President, looks at a new diorama which was placed in the Hall of State early this year.

interest in its work, but they fail to reflect the care with which he performed every responsibility he undertook and the pleasure that his colleagues in the Society had in working with him.

Quoting from a letter received from Virginia Gambrell, director of the Hall of State, she states that "his presence in a meeting insured its success, and his graciousness as a presiding officer made the annual meetings sparkling events. His introductory remarks, never read from manuscript, were little gems of wit and wisdom — and brevity." Continuing, she wrote "we like to think that the development of the Society under his wise leadership gave him great satisfaction. He brought to it the same wisdom, tact and capacity for making decisions that made his business career a notable one."

Yes, Homer R. Mitchell was proud of his community and realized that through the Dallas Historical Society he could do his part in perpetuating the memory of those who built it.





Shown in the original laboratory of the David Graham Hall Foundation are Mr. Mitchell, board chairman of the Foundation, and Mr. R. F. Voyer, president, as they talk to a member of the staff.

... ADVOCATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

"A perpetual organization, free of all financial involvements, independent of political interference, and pledged only to represent the citizen's interest is hereby established." Thus states the preamble to the constitution of the David Graham Hall Foundation.

To tell the story of Mr. Mitchell's contributions and influence in the Foundation's affairs would call for reams of paper and the retelling of the sixteen-year history of this unusual agency.

It was the morning of May 27, 1940, that Homer R. Mitchell first met and greeted Dr. David Graham Hall. In anticipation of the occasion, Mr. Mitchell had jointly with Dr. Joe S. Wooten of Austin and R. F. Voyer of Dallas, secured a charter from the State of Texas, authorizing the three to establish the David Graham Hall Foundation, for the purpose of promoting the prevention, treatment, and control of communicable diseases, and to promote community social welfare.

With several years' experience behind them as board members of the Texas Social Hygiene Association, Mr. Mitchell and his colleagues had come to the conclusion that, more than anything else, the State of Texas needed a public health "needling agency" - one which would be completely objective in its analysis and evaluation of official and voluntary health operations. They successfully sought and enlisted the support of 82-year-old Dr. David G. Hall, who subsequently endowed the Foundation with his entire estate, numbering more than one hundred pieces of Dallas real estate.

The Foundation, the first organization of its type to exist in the complex field of preventive medicine and public health, renders its services without charge to any government, civic group or individual in Texas.

During Mr. Mitchell's sixteen years as president and board chairman of the Foundation, seldom a month passed without his having made at least one personal contact

with physicians, public health people, editors, state, city or county officials.

Public health was foreign to him, but he carefully analyzed reports, studied texts, attended conferences and listened attentively to the experts who worked with the Foundation and who were its frequent visitors and guests. He had an insatiable desire to know more — and having learned, became an effective advocate of sound public health practice.

Why did this man, a lawyer and business executive, so thoroughly involve himself in this undertaking? Perhaps the answer was best given on the occasion of Dr. Hall's 83rd birthday celebration, when Mr. Mitchell told those present, "The challenge intrigues me, and the need for this type of thing is overwhelmingly obvious. I believe we are pioneering something of great public importance. I am proud to have a part in its creation and progress."



"The only measure of an institution is what it does for people." So reads the title of a brochure of the Texas Research Foundation — an aggressive organization working through farmers, ranchers, businessmen and industrialists to build back our rural economy. The Foundation, an independent, nonprofit research and educational institution, is the only privately supported research organization of its kind in the United States.

Mr. Mitchell was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Texas Research Foundation at Renner from the day of its founding. His name led the list of five top citizens of Dallas who were the original incorporators of the Foundation on May 9, 1946.

His interest in the program of Texas Research Foundation to strengthen the rural economy of the area grew through the years as he watched the fruition of the research at Renner. He gave the Foundation strong financial support and worked diligently in its operating fund campaigns to develop the support of other businessmen. He was a lively participant in board meetings, and was usually on hand at field days and other meetings at the Foundation to view the progress of its big program for agriculture.

The greatest achievements of Texas Research Foundation — the enriched human values which have been created — have been largely a result of the efforts of men such as Homer R. Mitchell, men interested in people.

Mr. Mitchell, right, John W. Carpenter, center, and Dr. C. E. Marshall, winner in 1951 of the first Hoblitzelle National Award in the Agricultural Sciences, examine some button clover plants during the 1951 open house and field day at Texas Research Foundation at Renner.

....SUPPORTER OF RESEARCH







... AND A Churchman

". . . The Good Samaritan descended from his horse to aid a man in need. Homer Mitchell did not need a horse. He would have been off it all the time lending a helping hand to numerous way-farers who had been buffeted on life's journey. From the very young to the aged and infirm no one knows how many have been aided by the beneficence of Homer Mitchell . . .

"He was a man's man: — sociable, friendly, jovial, respected by all and loved by those who knew him well...

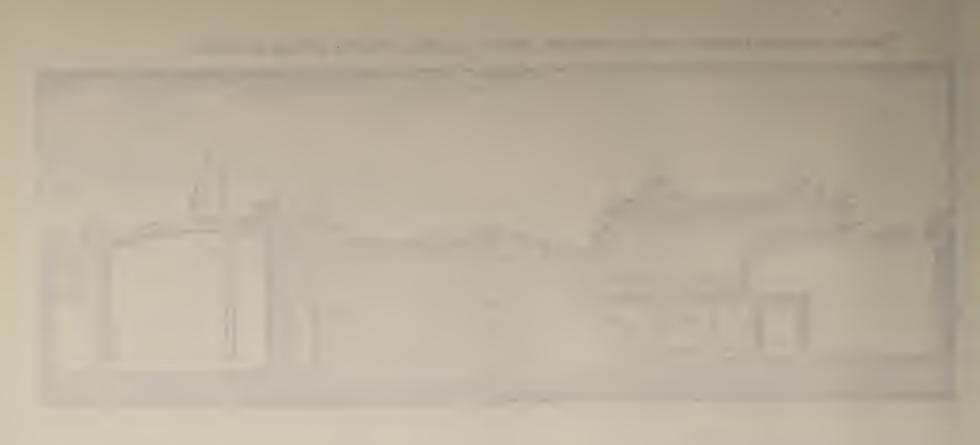
"There were many Homer Mitchell facets. But I knew him best as a churchman and as one who lived his faith in the preciousness of people—in the holiness of Human Beings! On Sundays he was regularly in his pew at church. On weekdays, he was a living example of respect for the individual, of tolerance for the opinions of others, of the fine art of

getting along with everyone, and of unfaltering loyalty to his friends and to his employees (of whom he was so proud). Just as great as his faith in God was his faith in the dignity of human beings, which is the fundamental creed of his church.

"And now he has gone, quickly as he would have wished to go . . . to another plane and to a life of continued growth and of continual usefulness. . . . Fortunate shall we be at our deaths, if we are able to leave one-half such a fragrant memory behind us."

-Robert Raible
Minister, First Unitarian Church





HEIHITH DA GIVA

I met a man the other day
Whose sunny manner seemed to say
That he had found the Happy Way.
I asked the secret of his smile,
He gave a thoughtful look the while
And answered somewhat in this style.
Six things have I that spell content,
Six things that mean a life well spent
That make for real accomplishment:

A Peaceful Mind,
A Grateful Heart,
A Love for all that's true,
A Helpful Hand,
Real Tolerance,
And Lots of Things to Do.

-S. W. Grafflin

The above poem, reprinted in BBB ten years ago in honor of Mr. Mitchell's 75th birthday, is a beautiful summation of the life he lived.

And that he had "lots of things to do" is evidenced by his aforementioned contributions to numerous organizations, plus a host of other titles he held and duties he performed during his lifetime.

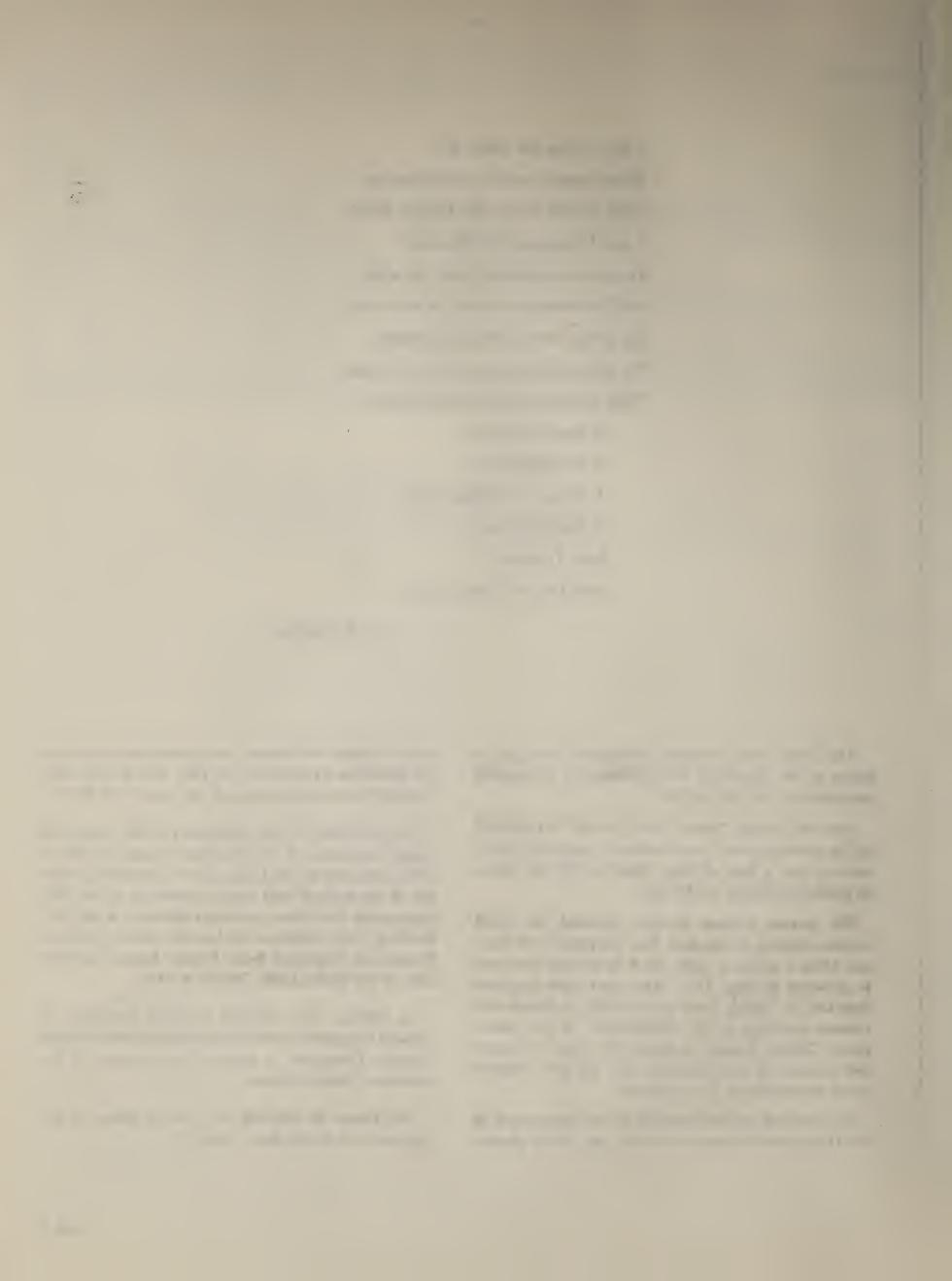
His private business interests included the board chairmanship of the Buckeye Tool Corporation of Dayton, Ohio, a company with which he became associated as president in May, 1933. And upon more occasions than one his helping hand was available to friends and business associates in the establishment of new enterprises. Chiefly though, he played the role of investor and associate in these instances and did not maintain active partnership in the companies.

Mr. Mitchell was instrumental in the organization of the Dallas Health Museum and was one of the charter trustees when the Museum was created ten years ago. He served as its president in 1951 and actively participated in its campaigns until the time of his death.

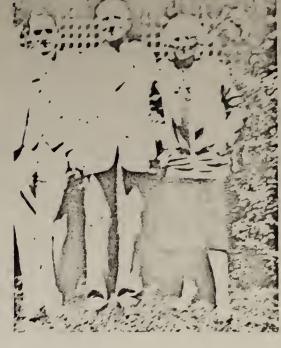
He also served as vice chairman for the Texas fund raising campaign of the American Cancer Society in 1945, chairman of the Dallas Radio Commission, member of the original fund raising committee of the SMU sustentation fund drive, campaign chairman of the 1943 building fund campaign for Southwestern Medical Foundation, director of Better Business Bureau and president of the Dallas Little Theater in 1937.

In addition, Mr. Mitchell was past president and national counselor of the National Association of Mutual Casualty Companies, a member association of the American Mutual Alliance.

Yes, Homer R. Mitchell had "lots of things to do," and how well he did those things!











Above left, with son Ben at Ardrossan, Scotland, 1937.

Above right, with son Jimmy and Mrs. Mitchell, June, 1930.

Far left, with Mrs. Mitchell and L. W. Groves wading in the springs at Junction, Texas, 1922.

Left, with son Ben and a friend in Europe while attending the International Rotary Convention at Nice, France, 1937.

ALBUM

Relaxation with family and friends—
Another important part of Mr. Mitchell's life.

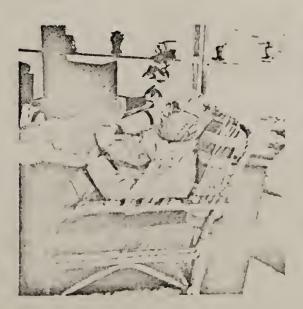
Right, in Scotland during 1937 European trip.

Below left, with Mrs. Mitchell at Grand Canyon, September, 1927.

Below center, displaying grandfatherly affection, 1943.

Below right, cutting his 80th birthday cake, 1951.











Resolutions

The Boards of Directors of these companies record with a deep sense of personal loss the death of their Chairman, Homer Rawlins Mitchell, on August seventh, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-six.

He was one of Dallas' finest citizens. He shared his great abilities and friendly qualities cheerfully and generously with the social and business life of his community. His kind and lovable qualities greatly endeared him to all those who enjoyed his friendship.

He rose from modest circumstances as a young man to become a giant in the field of insurance. He organized three great insurance institutions, and he was Chairman of the Board of Directors of each of them at the time of his death.

He had other and varied interests in social, educational, economic, cultural and civic affairs, and he held many positions of honor and trust.

He was patient, warm and keenly interested in his fellow man.

His passing leaves a vacancy in the hearts and lives of all who knew him, and particularly in the hearts of his fellow workers and friends in the three companies which have been blessed with his leadership.

Resolved, that deeply aware of the loss sustained, we extend to his family our most heartfelt sympathy in their bereavement and that the Resolution be suitably engrossed and conveyed to his family.

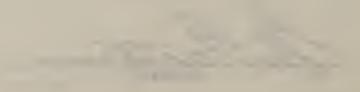
Texas Employers' Insurance Association Employers Casualty Company Employers National Insurance Company

PRECIDENT

SECRETARY

P.csolution:

Commission of Continues Statement Statement of the Continues of the Contin



RESOLUTION OF RESPECT AND SYMPATHY
PASSED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
SOUTHLAND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
IN MEMORY OF HOMER R. MITCHELL

Our good friend, fellow director and officer, Homer R. Mitchell, has been called to his heavenly reward; and we, with his many other friends, are left to lament his departure. By this resolution, we express our sadness and regret.

Mr. Mitchell was a man of quiet and kindly disposition and a wise counsellor in the deliberations of this Board. As an official and a director, he was intelligent and progressive and at all times devoted to the welfare of our Company, doing everything in his power to strengthen its position.

As an outstanding businessman and insurance executive, he was widely known and respected by all with whom he came in contact throughout the many years he served the insurance industry.

He was a devoted worker in civic affairs for the continual improvement of our community and our state. All of us will miss his warm personality and his generous devotion of time and effort to our Company, but his memory will continue in our hearts.

of Directors of Southland Life Insurance Company, tender to all the members of his family our heartfalt sympathy at his passing and do hereby spread upon the minutes of this meeting this expression of honor and respect to the memory of our friend and fellow director, Homer R. Mitchell, and do further instruct the Secretary to furnish his family and his business associates in the Employers Casualty Company and the Texas Employers Insurance Association a copy of this resolution.

I, the undersigned, Vice President and Secretary of Southland Life Insurance Company, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted on the 23rd day of August, 1956, at a meeting of the Board of Directors of said Company.

WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of said corporation, this 23rd day of August, 1956.

J. L. EVANS, Vice President and Secretary, Southland Life Insurance Company.

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IN MEMORIAM

The Board of Directors of Republic National Bank of Dallas dedicates its meeting this 13th day of September, 1956 to the memory of

Homer Rawlins Mitchell

who died on Tuesday, August 7, 1956 at the age of 84 years. His service to the Bank as a member of its Board for thirty-one years was an immeasurable contribution to the position attained by the Bank and was of the character of Trusteeship to which all great institutions aspire. His presence will be missed by those accustomed to the warmth of his personality. The wisdom of his fine mind will, in absentia, continue to pervade the deliberations of the Board. It is to such men of his stature that banks and institutions, cities and governments owe the creation and realization of their opportunities and are rewarded by the fruits of thought and effort. He will truly be remembered as a courageous and resourceful builder -- a humanitarian and a benefactor.

Homer Mitchell's early life was spent in Missouri where he was born October 22, 1871, and where he was graduated from the University of Missouri law school in 1895. Soon thereafter he came to Houston, Texas for the practice of law. Availing himself of a chance to enter the insurance business proved to be a field in which he had great aptitude. His rise was rapid and his talents sought. Pioneering in compensation insurance work led to his affiliation with Texas Employers' Insurance Association and subsequently its President and Chairman of its Board. Cooperating in 1920 in the formation of an associate organization, Employers Casualty Company, he became its President in 1927 and Chairman of its Board in 1938.

His pre-eminence in the insurance field was an index to his love of accomplishment and spirit of constructive organization. His business identities became widespread and numerous were his memberships on corporate boards. But apace with his activities in the world of business he perceived the great need for active support of other efforts having for their objective the improvement of human opportunity and the strengthening of citizenship and the sense of moral responsibilities. Thus with a feeling of duty and privilege he associated himself with many worthy activities. From these he received acclaims of gratitude, citations of the highest order and the deep personal reward of human service.

Homer Mitchell's warm and expansive personality made friendships everywhere and to the end of his life he never relaxed in the pleasure of cultivating people. This charming trait will linger brightly in memory of all who knew him.

As a member of the Board since January 13, 1925 he served the Bank faithfully and loyally and responded with conscientious concern to its calls for his counsel. The Bank is profoundly grateful for his contributions and the Board desires that its records reflect the expressions of its love, esteem and sorrow. Be it RESOLVED, therefore:

That the passing of Homer R. Mitchell is an inestimable loss to the Bank; That his memory carries the affections of each of his fellow members; That these sentiments be recorded in the archives of the Bank; and That a copy be sent to the members of his family.

/s/ John W. Carp	en'	ter
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/s/ B. F. McLain

RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DALLAS HOUSING COMPANY:

WHEREAS in the passing of Homer R. Mitchell the City of Dallas and the State of Texas lost not only an outstanding business man but also a man of many civic activities and a man who made friends of everyone he met;

WHEREAS Mr. Chas. A. Myers, President of this company, has known Mr. Mitchell personally and has been a close personal friend since he lived in Houston, Texas. Mrs. Mitchell was a personal friend of an aunt of Mr. Myers and it was while Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell were visiting this aunt, Mrs. Thomas S. Foster, that Mr. Myers made the acquaintance of Mr. Mitchell;

WHEREAS Mr. Mitchell has been a director of the Dallas Housing Company since it was organized in 1919 and has been Vice-President for many years;

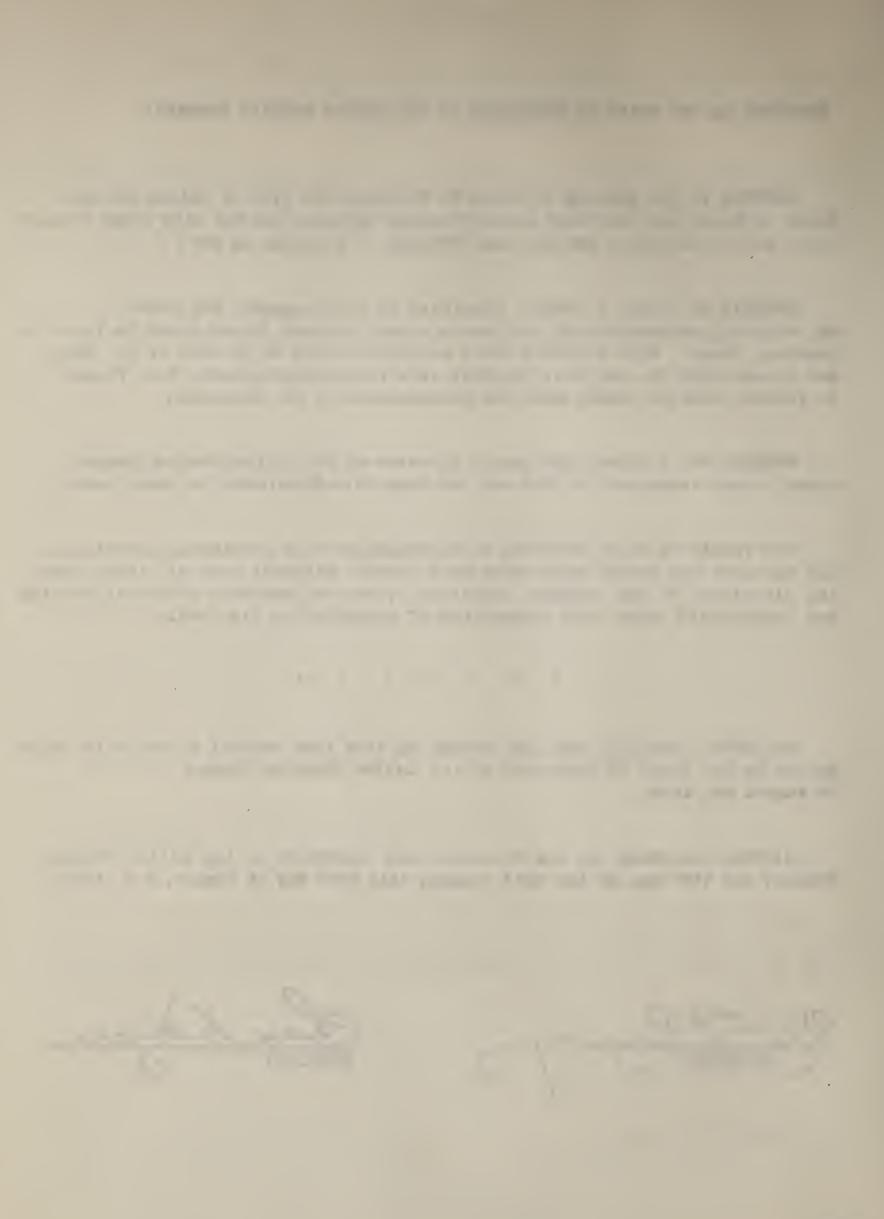
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that because of this continuous association and the love and esteem which they held for Mr. Mitchell over all these years, the directors of this company individually and collectively mourn his passing and unanimously adopt this expression of sympathy for his family.

* * * * * *

WE HEREBY CERTIFY, that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution duly passed by the Board of Directors of the Dallas Housing Company on August 29, 1956.

WITNESS the hands of the President and Secretary of the Dallas Housing Company and the seal of the said company this 29th day of August, A.D. 1956.

PURSIDAIM



MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

In the passing of Homer R. Mitchell, the City of Dallas, the State of Texas, and in fact the entire Nation, lost one of the stalwart businessmen of his day. Mr. Mitchell entered the insurance business at an early age with a background of legal education. After serving in the life insurance field he was one of the original organizers of Texas Employers Insurance Association, Employers Casualty Company, Gulf States Life Insurance Company and other business institutions, and left behind him as permanent memorials some of the outstanding insurance companies of the State.

Along with all his business accomplishments he carried the desire and will to help his fellowmen and was especially active in church and the Boy Scout movements. His civic activities were many, including the presidency of the Community Chest for four years.

Homer Mitchell was a man who liked his fellowmen and who never tired of working with and for them for the accomplishment of every good endeavor. He had the happy faculty of making a personal friend of almost every man he met and his wide acquaintance was a source of great satisfaction to him.

He has served the Dallas Union Securities Company, and its predecessor, the Dallas Union Trust Company, as a director since its organization May 1, 1920, and his sound judgment and good advice have been of inestimable benefit to it.

Because of this continuous association and the love and esteem which they have held for Mr. Mitchell over all these years, the Directors of the company individually and collectively mourn his passing and unanimously adopt this expression of sympathy for his family.

This Resolution shall be inscribed in the minutes of the company and a copy thereof delivered by the Secretary to the family.

The state of

MEMORIAL

WHEREAS, on August 7, 1956, death closed the long and illustrious career of HOMER R. MITCHELL of Dallas, Texas; and,

WHEREAS, HOMER R. MITCHELL was born in Lee's Summit, Missouri on October 22, 1871 and received his education in that state, being awarded a Bachelor of Laws Degree by the University of Missouri in 1895; and,

WHEREAS, HOMER R. MITCHELL came to Texas and in 1903 entered into the insurance business, upon which industry he was to have a profound effect until the day of his death; and,

WHEREAS, he was one of the founders and later became Chairman of the Board of Directors of Texas Employers Insurance Association, Employers Casualty Company and Employers National Insurance Company; and,

WHEREAS, he gave unstintingly of his time and effort in civic affairs, having served for many years in various capacities in such affairs both in the local and state-wide organizations; and,

WHEREAS, he was one of the founders of Texas Automobile Insurance Service Office, and served as the first Chairman of the Governing Committee and it was largely through his effort that this organization progressed and came to its present position; and,

WHEREAS, HOMER R. MITCHELL was ever ready, willing and able to give his time and valuable counsel to all of the problems confronting Texas Automobile Insurance Service Office; and,

WHEREAS, HOMER R. MITCHELL is survived by two sons, Ben H. Mitchell and James P. Mitchell, and one sister, Mrs. C. C. Dimmitt; and.

WHEREAS, each of the members of the Governing Committee of the Texas Automobile Insurance Service Office feels an individual loss in the death of their friend and counsellor;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Committee of Texas Automobile Insurance Service Office that it extend to the members of the family of HOMER R. MITCHELL, his friends and associates the deep sense of loss and sympathy of this Committee and its members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be spread upon the Minutes of the Governing Committee of Texas Automobile Insurance Service Office and upon the Minutes of the next annual meeting of the membership thereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be subscribed by the Chairman of this Committee and delivered with appropriate expressions of sympathy to each of the members of the family of HOMER R. MITCHELL and to the President of the Insurance Organizations which Mr. Mitchell headed.

ADOPTED by unanimous rising vote of the Governing Committee of Texas Automobile Insurance Service Office this the 17th day of September, 1956.

CHAIRMAN, GOVERNING/COMMITTEE

A RESOLUTION ON THE LIFE OF

HOMER RAWLINS MITCHELL

HOMER RAWLINS MITCHELL departed this life on August 7, 1956, but through his selfless service to his fellow man and in the hearts and memories of those who were privileged to know him and to be associated with him, he shall live.

A kindly, good humoured and friendly man, Mr. Mitchell's successful achievement in everything he undertook is directly attributable to his basic motive of service to others. The very business which he helped to establish and which he continued to serve until his passing - an innovation in the field of insurance - took first, cognizance of the peace of mind of its agents. A man of exceptional vision and judgment, his advice and counsel were sought by numerous business organizations and he served year after year on directorates of banks, insurance companies and other important commercial organizations. Yet he was ever ready, and did, give generously of his time and skill in every endeavor having as its objective the health, welfare and happiness of his fellow man and/or community betterment.

Mr. Mitchell's service through Scouting was long and faithful. He began his service with his local council in 1941, as a member of the Executive Board, and continued to serve in that capacity until his death. He was awarded the Silver Beaver by Circle Ten Council in 1944; but it was through his service to the region that his record was impressive. He served as Regional Chairman from 1940 to 1947. During the war days when transportation difficulties and inadequate hotel facilities made central regional meetings impossible, Mr. Mitchell travelled to the far reaches of the region that he might personally participate in small sectional meetings and preserve the spirit of the "oneness" of the region. After retiring from the chairmanship, Mr. Mitchell continued his service to the region as a member of the Regional Executive Committee, in which capacity he also served on various regional subcommittees. He faithfully attended all meetings of the committee when his health would permit and was with us in our meeting in April of this year. In grateful appreciation of his service, the Silver Antelope Award was presented to him in 1944.

NOW, THEREFORE: WHEREAS, it has pleased an omnipotent Providence to call to rest from his labors a good and faithful servant:

And, whereas, the passing of Homer Rawlins Mitchell leaves a void in our counsels and a feeling of distinct personal loss and sadness in the heart of each member of this Committee:

BE IT RESOLVED: that

- 1. We include in the minutes of this meeting, and in our permanent records, an acknowledgment of our consciousness and appreciation of the scope and importance of the service rendered by him, particularly his long and generous and faithful service through the Boy Scouts of America:
- 2. That we extend to his sorrowing survivors our deep and heartfelt sympathy in their great loss:
- 3. That a copy of this resolution be given to each member of the family.

"SERVICE ABOVE SELF" - "HE PROFITS MOST WHO SERVES BEST"

DIRECTORATE

JOHN F. ANDERSON, JR.
GEORGE P. CULLUM, SR.
RALPH W. CURRIE
MYRON EVERTS
JOSH C. FIELD
GEORGE J. FIX, JR.
LAWRENCE B. JONES
HENRY S. MILLER, JR
JAMES L. NEAL
J. FRANK PARKER, JR
JOHN F. RUDIN
GEORGE A. SMITH, JR.
KIEL STERLING
BOUDE STOREY, JR.



JAMES L. NEAL PRESIDENT GEORGE J. FIX, JR. VICE PRESIDENT GEORGE R. ANGELL SECRETARY-TREASURER

W. DICK TROTTER, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
328-327 BAKER HOTEL
PHONE BEFORE NOV. 4, 1956 RANDOLPH-7322
PHONE AFTER NOV. 4, 1956 RIVERSIDE 2-7322
MEETING WEDNESDAY — 12 O'CLOCK NOON
CRYSTAL BALLROOM — BAKER HOTEL

ROTARY CLUB OF DALLAS ORGANIZED APRIL 20. 1911 :: :: CHARTER 39

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE LIFE of HOMER R. MITCHELL

In the passing of Homer R. Mitchell on August 7, 1956, not only Rotary, but the City of Dallas, the State of Texas, and the Southwest lost a valued citizen. He was a pioneer with courage, civic leader, churchman and humanitarian.

For the past half century, Homer Mitchell has played an important and potent role in the development of our State. His interest has principally been in the field of insurance and finance, and because of his integrity and fidelity to his assumed responsibilities, has played a leading role in the development of the insurance business in the entire State, as well as the development of Dallas as an insurance center. In business relationships with Mr. Mitchell, one always felt that his word was worth more than a signature on a contract.

Realizing full well that the welfare of his community was equally as important as the financial well-being, he gave of his time freely and worked vigorously in the advancement of many community and civic enterprises such as the Community Chest, Y.M.C.A., Boy Scouts, and many other comparable activities including cultural opportunities. He worked equally as well as the leader of these enterprises or as a soldier in the ranks. His interest was the accomplishment of the mission of the civic projects in which he engaged rather than personal recognition.

Homer Mitchell loved his fellow man, he believed in the philosophy that to have a friend was to be a friend. No person, no matter what his station in life, ever felt ill at ease in his presence. To the contrary, one had the feeling that the problem or issue under consideration was the most important subject to him at that time. As he advanced in years, assumed increasing responsibilities and received numerous honors, he never lost the human touch of his fellow man. His influence and example will live on and on through those who knew him.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Dallas Rotary Club that we extend to his family and loved ones our sympathy and that this resolution be made a part of the records of the Dallas Rotary Club and a copy sent to his family.

Respectfully submitted,

August 15, 1956

Committee





HOMER R. MITCHELL 1871 - 1956

"I wish we could have stayed longer, and learned more about it, but we had to hurry on, like the brook in Tennyson's poem."

—From a letter written by Mr. Mitchell from Brussels, Belgium, almost twenty years ago.





